

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 01451 251813Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009053 251815Z /43

O R 251804Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5191
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T BONN 01451

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR TSPA GW CG UR US UK FR
SUBJECT: RENEWED SOVIET DEMARCHE ON OTRAG

REFS: (A) BONN 1370; (B) STATE 18252; (C) BONN 1184

1. EXCEPT FOR ONE TEXTUAL CHANGE, PARIS HAS ACCEPTED THE AD REF TEXT IN REF (C) FOR THE PROPOSED ALLIED REPLY TO THE SOVIET DEMARCHES ON OTRAG. FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS FOR MODALITIES OF DELIVERY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S (REF B), ALTHOUGH THE QUAI DOES NOT WISH THE TEXT TO BE PASSED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE BEFORE A COMMON POSITION HAS BEEN AGREED AMONG THE THREE ALLIES -- EVEN IF THIS COMMON POSITION MEANS THAT THE BRITISH TEXT IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS AND THE FRENCH.

2. THE TEXTUAL CHANGE DESIRED BY PARIS IS IN THE
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PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE AD REF TEXT (PARA 12, REF C), WHICH PRESENTLY READS AS FOLLOWS: "WE FOR OUR PART ARE SATISFIED THAT NO GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT."

3. THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN TRANSLATING THAT SENTENCE HAD

USED "CERTAIN" INSTEAD OF "SATISFIED." US AND UK
EMBOFFS AGREED THAT THIS WAS AN ACCEPTABLE TRANSLATION
AS THE MEANING WAS THE SAME.

4. PARIS HAS ASKED THAT THAT SENTENCE BE AMENDED TO
READ: "WE FOR OUR PART ARE SATISFIED IN THE PRESENT
STATE OF OUR INFORMATION THAT NO GROUNDS EXIST...."

5. WHILE AGREEING TO REPORT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO
CAPITALS, BOTH WE AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAVE
RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACCEPTING THAT AMENDMENT. THE
PURPOSE IS CLEAR, BUT IT SEEMS TO INVITE THE SOVIETS
TO RETURN TO THE ISSUE BY URGING THAT WE IMPROVE THE
PRESENT STATE OF OUR INFORMATION. THE DEPARTMENT
WILL RECALL THAT THE JANUARY 11 DEMARCHE CONTAINED THE
STATEMENT: "IF THE FACTUAL ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE OTRAG COMPANY, OR THOSE WHO ARE BEHIND IT, ARE
NOT QUITE CLEAR, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE US SIDE HAS THE
PROPER MEANS OF VERIFICATION AND
CONTROL THEREOF."

6. COMMENT: WE REGRET THE EPISODIC REPORTING BUT
CONSIDER IT WORTHWHILE IN THE INTEREST OF DISPOSING
OF THE ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PASS ON THE FRENCH
CHANGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION. THE UK
EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THE FRENCH PROPOSAL TO LONDON BY
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TELEPHONE, AND THE FCO WORKING LEVEL IS CRANKING IT
INTO THE STUDY WHICH IS STILL AWAITING MINISTERIAL
CLEARANCE. THE FCO REACTION WAS THE SAME AS OUR OWN --
THAT THE CHANGE WOULD WEAKEN THE REPLY;
OTHERWISE, THE WORKING LEVEL IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL
OF THE AD REF TEXT IN REF (C).

7. SLIPPAGE IN THE TIMETABLE PROPOSED BY THE
DEPARTMENT SEEMS INEVITABLE. DEPENDING ON THE
DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND UK
INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TEXT AS A WHOLE, IT MAY STILL
BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A TEXT TO THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE
BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING
ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AMENDMENT REQUESTED BY PARIS IN
PARA 4 ABOVE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, TEXT, MISSILE SITES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Film Number: D780037-0694
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780126/aaaaavnw.tel
Line Count: 112
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Litigation Codes:
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